

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action mailed on November 24, 2003, as well as the art cited. Claims 1-24 are pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4-10, 13-18, 20-22 and 24 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Dapper et al., (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0032334 A1). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The current application has been amended to claim priority to a common priority application with Dapper. The invention claimed in the current application is fully disclosed in US Application Ser. No. 08/650,408 at p. 115, line 15 – p. 116, line 20 and Figures 112 and 113. This same text and figures are carried through the intermediate applications. Further, the inventor of the current application, Heng Lou, was a named inventor in the original '408 Application. Therefore, the claims of the current application are entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the '408 Patent. Dapper is not valid prior art against the claims of the current application. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 11, 19 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dapper et al., (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0032334 A1) in view of Doshi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,055,424). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the limitations of these claims are also found in Dapper. See, US Application Ser. No. 08/650,408 at p. 115, line 15 – p. 116, line 20 and Figures 112 and 113. Thus, these claims are entitled to the May 20, 1996 filing date and Dapper is not prior art.

Claims 3 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dapper et al., (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0032334 A1) in view of Humbleman (U.S. Patent No. 6,005,861). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the limitations of these claims are also found in Dapper. See, US Application Ser. No. 08/650,408 at p. 115, line 15 – p. 116, line 20 and Figures 112 and 113. Thus, these claims are entitled to the May 20, 1996 filing date and Dapper is not prior art.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-24 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 502432.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 332-4720.

Respectfully submitted,

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